

WHY ARE CHRISTIANS LEFT IN THE WORLD?

⇒ **Text:** John 17:15

⇒ **Intro:**

- Did it ever occur to you to wonder why Christians are left in the world?
 - In our Lord's High-Priestly prayer in John 17, we learn God's program for His own and why Christians are left in the world.

⇒ **I. CHRISTIANS ARE NOT OF THIS WORLD.**

- 1. The redeemed are in the world, but not of the world.
 - Like the ship in the ocean is in it, but not of it - **John 17:16; ~~17~~**
- 2. In the New Testament the believer is warned against the world.
 - a. He is not to love the world - **I John 2:15.** 14-
 - b. He is not to fellowship with the world - **II Cor. 6:11-18.**
 - c. He is not to fraternize with the world - **James 4:4.**
- 3. If we are not of the world, we will be hated by the world - **John 17:14.**

⇒ **II. THE PLACE OF CHRISTIANS IN THE WORLD.**

- 1. First, our relationship is that of strangers - **I Peter 2:11.**
- 2. Second, our ministry is that of ambassadors - **II Cor. 5:20.**
- 3. Third, our service is that of witnessing - **Acts 1:8.**

⇒ **III. WHY CHRISTIANS ARE LEFT IN THE WORLD.**

- 1. First, we are left here for our own sakes.
 - We need to learn the lessons of faith, patience and endurance - **I Peter 1:7; Rom. 5:3-5.**
- 2. Second, we are left here for the world's sake.
 - We are left here actively to "rescue the perishing, care for the dying."

- 3. Third, we are left here for Christ's sake.
 - He represents us perfectly before the Throne of Grace.

● We are to represent Him here before a world ^{that is} in disgrace and degradation. ^{lost and on its way to hell}

⇒ **IV. CHRISTIANS ARE NOT GOING TO BE LEFT IN THE WORLD ALWAYS.**

⇒ There are at least four great truths suggested in **John 17:24.**

- 1. First, we belong with Jesus because we are His. We are the Father's gift to the Son - **John 17:6, 9, 11-12.**
 - In our resurrection, He will fully claim His own.
- 2. Second, we see the Son's desire in **John 17:24.**
 - He wants us; we are His living choices, His inheritance in the Saints.
- 3. Third, we are to be with Him - **I Thess. 4:17.**
- 4. Fourth, we are to be shown His eternal glory; love's glory.
 - Glory that He had with the Father before the world was - ~~Rev 1:5, 3:14.~~ **John 17:5**